

Filed for intro on 04/26/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0193
By Womack

A RESOLUTION to request the state board of education to report to the education committees of the Senate and House of Representatives on the capacity of existing alternative schools and changes necessary to deal with students in grades one through six, and to request local education agencies with sufficient space to take certain actions.

WHEREAS, The Education Improvement Act of 1992, provided that each local education agency should maintain, or cooperate with another local education agency in maintaining, one alternative school for students who have been suspended or expelled from grades seven (7) through twelve (12), and may maintain such facilities for students suspended or expelled from grades one (1) through six (6); and

WHEREAS, it appears that an inconsistent situation may be developing in which some LEA's place suspended and expelled students in grades one (1) through six (6) in alternative school settings and others do not; and

WHEREAS, it is especially desirable that students in the lower grades should have continuous instruction even if their presence in their regular classrooms may be impossible or undesirable; and

WHEREAS, it is important to the education committees of the Senate and House of Representatives to have an accurate idea of the number of students expelled or suspended in grades one (1) through six (6), as well as the facilities available for the placement of such students; and

WHEREAS, to the extent that local education agencies have available space in existing alternative schools, it is desirable that suspended or expelled students in grades one (1) through (6) receive the educational benefits of attendance at such schools; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the state board of education is requested to provide the education committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, through the committees' chairs, with the availability and status of alternative school space for suspended or expelled students in grades one (1) through six (6) in each local education agency, and with the number of students either suspended or expelled, by grade level one (1) through six (6), in each local education agency. The board is requested to provide this information no later than October 1, 1995, based on the 1994-1995 school year, or the most recent year for which information is available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That to the extent possible each local education agency is urged to make space available in currently operated alternative schools for the retention of suspended or expelled students in grades one (1) through six (6).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to Dr. Brent Poulton, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, and to Dr. Jane Walters, Commissioner of Education, who is requested to disseminate to each local education agency the request for placement of grades one (1) through six (6) students in alternative schools.